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Washington Sentinel.

REMARKABLE STORIES.—Some of the toughest facts we have lately had to deal with, have made their appearance in the Virginia papers. Here are two specimens:

A Remarkable Case of Petrification.—About four years ago, the wife of a gentleman living in Nelson county, Vermont, died, and was interred in the usual manner. Being a native of Woodford county, Kentucky, she had requested, before her death, to be buried beside her kindred, and in the home of her childhood. From accident or delay, her request was not complied with until recently, when, upon disinterment, her remains, which were found to be of the extraordinary weight of 550 pounds. At the time of her death she weighed but 110 pounds. Only the foot of the coffin, which was still in a good state of preservation, was broken open, when her feet were found to be in a perfect state of petrification, the stone partaking of the character of the hardest limestone formations in the locality of the grave. There is no doubt that the whole body was thus completely petrified.

[Wheeler Intelligence.]

Horse Story. On Monday last a young lady on horseback was waiting on the shore of the Smith river, at Martinsburg, Virginia, for the ferryboat, which was on the opposite side, but her horse became impatient and impatient, perhaps, he could make the trip before the ferryboat arrived, plunged into the swollen torrent and made out at the rate of six knots an hour. All her efforts to hold him back were unavailing, and she finally let go the reins and clung to the saddle. Soon after nothing of the horse was visible but his head moving rapidly into the river, the girl clinging to the saddle, under water, and bravely resisting the impetuous current which it seemed must inevitably tear her from her frail hold. The freak of the horse was so sudden and unexpected that the few persons on the shore had no time to provide any means of rescue. Luckily, two men in a skiff were not far off and came up just as the exhausted girl was falling from the saddle. She was taken to the shore in an insensible condition, but soon recovered and returned home. The enterprising but vicious horse, as though determined not to make the trip without freight, when he found that he was relieved of his burden, rounded to, and put back to the shore from which he started.

The Big Trees of California.

Levi Hitchcock, of Springfield, Mass., has received a letter from his brother, Walter Hitchcock, who is in California, giving an interesting description of a visit to the big trees. He also received from him a piece of wood from the big tree which has been cut down. We make the following extract from the letter: "We have doubtless heard of the 'big trees' of California, but I have seen them, and must give you a brief description of them. We had been calculating, for some time, to go and see them; so, last Wednesday morning we took our car, and in our saddle bags, just as the sun peeped over the hills, and we bounded down the mountain, and we were in the arms of the towering hills of barren rocks which form the banks of the little mad Stanislaus, which we were obliged to cross. We had to dismount and proceed very cautiously, in a path about two feet wide, winding round the side of a mountain, and we were the man or beast that stepped below the path; they sure would make the river too short. We crossed it in a ferryboat, and had to pay four bits each, and as there were five of us, the ferryman took two and a half dollars for about five minutes' work. The river over our next business was to climb the mate of the hill we had just descended. We got to Murphy's diggings about eleven o'clock, a distance of about eight miles. From Murphy's there is a good road, and we arrived at the Mammoth Tree Hotel a little before sunset. "The 'big trees' (for there are 131 of them over ten feet in diameter, standing on the limits of a few acres, stand in Mammoth Tree Valley, about 30 miles north of Sonoma, in California county. The mammoth tree which has been felled, was bored down with long augers, and took four men twenty-two days to get it down. The stump stands about six feet above the level of the ground, and its top has been made level and smooth, which required sixteen days' work. It stands in a hollow, in the center of the bark, and it measured 25 feet in diameter, it being at this length ten feet in diameter. At the length of 280 feet it is four feet in diameter. At this point, it was broken off in falling, and the tip was broken into fragments so fine I could not measure them; but its height had been taken before it was felled, and set down at 300 feet. It is called *Arborescens*, but it is not fully described in the dictionary. It is a little curious that no other tree of the same kind can be found less than seven feet in diameter, and this tree is estimated by a scientific gentleman from San Francisco to be 3,100 years old.

"There are many others still standing, of the same kind, which are monsters; and even larger than this, but not so fine, and even Uncle Tom's Cabin, has a more commodious room in it than many miners' cabins. There are some large ones blown down, and one I must not fail to describe. It was evidently decayed before it fell, and in its fall broke off sixty feet from the roots. This part is hollow, and I cannot give you a better idea of its size than by telling you that I placed my horse through it from end to end. At the other end it is broken off the shell is very thin, and, as I sat on the horse, I could not reach my hand to the inner surface, over my head; but halfway through the shell was as much as three feet thick over my head, and more than that under the horse's feet, and here it was necessary to lean forward. There is another one blown down, measures one hundred and ten feet in circumference, and four hundred and ten feet in length. This, too, is hollow, and if the hollow were enlarged a little, it would make a very good ropewalk."

[Curiosities of London Life.]

THE CAMBRIC CHEMISTETTE.

IN A ROMANTIC AND ECONOMICAL POINT OF VIEW.
Oh Chemistette! the fairest yet
That'er had bosom purer, whiter;
Thou dost not know what delicate woe
Thy yielding snow hath given the writer.
So neatly filled—so plumply filled!
(At least the eyes that shine above it!—
And then in song dear girl to love it.)

Sweet Chemistette! the coral set,
To chain thy folds in gentlest net,
Flings round a glow upon the snow
To lighten so thy blushing brow;
And they creep from sleeves of dore,
Did coral feel a softer glow—
Nor could the gold around it rolled,
Though ten times told, deserve the pillow.

Oh Chemistette! below thee met
A rosy ribbon binds her bodice;
And they creep from sleeves of dore,
One half the queen and one the goddess.
Her voice is low—how sweet its flow—
Her upper lip disdains the under;
Like mine it is like dark waves that strike
A marble cliff, and rush around.

Oh opening grace! Oh radiant face!
When love is low, it knows no measure!
Her hands are small, but yet can call
The power of music to their pleasure;
And they creep from sleeves of dore,
Wide gimpure lace, "la mode Ramette,"
Her fingers seen, or else I dream,
Like stamens in the bells of lilies.

The robe of blue—the violet hue—
The green leaves in thy dark hair gleaming!
Thy feet that move as light as love—
Thy breath—thy lips have set me dreaming.
My cheeks are wet—what Chemistette
Was trifled and worn by none enchanter,
But such a fear, 'twas dreadful fear,
By order of the Trustees.

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Dec. 30, 1853.

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